



MEDIA RELEASE

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Awareness of animal experimentation is increasing – and Australians are not happy!

An opinion poll commissioned by Humane Research Australia has revealed that awareness of animal experimentation is increasing – and Australians are not happy!

The survey was conducted by Nexus Research in April 2018 and revealed the following key points:

- More people (71% of respondents) are now aware that animal experiments occur in Australia - an increase from 57% in our 2013 survey.
- However, only 37% are aware that monkeys are used.
- 70% oppose the use of dogs in research and 63% oppose the use of monkeys.
- Only 45% believe that animals are necessary for the development of human medicine. This has declined from 50% in 2013 and 59% in 2008.
- Only 23% believe that humans have the moral right to experiment on animals, while 60% do not believe humans have the right and 17% are uncertain.
- 69% of respondents believe that lab animals must be given the opportunity to be re-homed following their use in research (providing of course they are not too traumatised or physically/mentally damaged to live a normal life), (a further 17% of people were uncertain).
- 59% would not donate to a health or medical research charity if they knew it was funding animal experimentation (a further 23% did not know).
- 67% support allocating a proportion of medical research grants to finding scientific alternatives to animal experiments (a further 21% were uncertain).

As expected, there was greater opposition to using dogs and primates compared with rabbits and rodents, and opposition to the use of all animals increased depending on the level of severity/physical impact on the animals.

Humane Research Australia Chief Executive Helen Marston: *“Animal experimentation is slowly being exposed and Humane Research Australia will continue shining the spotlight on this secretive industry. Until there is a more awareness through greater transparency, it will never be possible to have an honest and open debate about the ethics nor the efficacy of animal experiments.”*

Ends.